

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An apparatus comprising:

(A) an image sensing device;

(B) a signal processing device for performing a first image sensing operation for making said image sensing device perform an image sensing operation in an exposure state to obtain a sensed image signal, and a second image sensing operation for making said image sensing device perform an image sensing operation in accordance with said first image sensing operation in a non-exposure state to obtain a sensed image signal, and processing the sensed image signal obtained by the first image sensing operation by using the sensed image signal obtained by the second image sensing operation; and

(C) an instruction device for instructing to execute ~~a predetermined plurality times of image sensing operations with different image sensing times of said first image sensing operation~~ operations for respective different exposure periods of plural image sensing operations,

wherein said signal processing device evaluates said different exposure periods for said plural first image sensing operations and selects an image sensing time of said the longest exposure period from respective different exposure periods ~~image sensing times of said first image sensing operations executed the plurality times of image sensing operations in~~ response to the instruction of said instruction device, and performs said second image sensing operation for the plurality times of image sensing operations in accordance with ~~the selected image sensing time~~ a charge accumulation period of the second image sensing operation

corresponding to the selected exposure period, and further processes the plurality of sensed image ~~signal~~ signals obtained with said different ~~image sensing times~~ exposure periods by using the sensed image signal obtained by the second image sensing operation.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, further comprising:

a storage device for storing the sensed image signal of the second image sensing operation according to the selected ~~image sensing time~~ exposure period.

Claim 4 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said signal processing device processes the sensed image signal obtained by the first image sensing operation on the basis of the sensed image signal stored in said storage device in image sensing operations other than the predetermined one of the plurality times of image sensing operations.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, further comprising:

a storage device for storing the sensed image signal of the second image sensing operation according to the selected ~~image sensing time~~ exposure period.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said signal processing device processes the sensed image signal obtained by the first image sensing operation on the basis of the sensed image signal stored in said storage device in image sensing operations other than the longest ~~image-sensing-time~~ exposure period of the first image sensing operation of ~~among~~ the plurality times of image sensing operations.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said signal processing device designates an ~~image-sensing-time~~ exposure period of the first image sensing operation of a predetermined image sensing operation in response to the instruction of said instruction device, and ~~makes~~ performs the second image sensing operation for the plurality times of image sensing operations in accordance with the designated ~~image-sensing-time~~ exposure period.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

a storage device for storing the sensed image signal of the second image sensing operation according to the designated ~~image-sensing-time~~ exposure period.

Claim 10 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said signal processing device processes the sensed image signal obtained by the first image sensing operation on the basis of the sensed image signal stored in said storage device in image sensing operations other than the predetermined one of the plurality of image sensing operations.

Claim 11 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus includes a camera.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): An apparatus comprising:

(A) an image sensing device;

(B) a signal processing device for performing a first image sensing operation for making said image sensing device perform an image sensing operation in an exposure state to obtain a sensed image signal, and for respective first image sensing operations performing a second image sensing operation for making said image sensing device perform an image sensing operation in a non-exposure state to obtain a sensed image signal, and processing the sensed image signal obtained by the first image sensing operation by using the sensed image signal obtained by the second image sensing operation, wherein said signal processing device inhibiting the second image sensing operation from being made for each image sensing operation in response to the instruction of said instruction device; and

(C) an instruction device for instructing to execute a predetermined plurality times of image sensing operations with different ~~image sensing times~~ exposure periods of said first image sensing operation, and

wherein said signal processing device selects the longest exposure period of the first image sensing operation among the plurality of image sensing operations in response to the instruction of said instruction device, and performs the second image sensing operation for the plurality times of image sensing operations in accordance with a charge accumulation period of the second image sensing operation corresponding to the selected exposure period.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim ~~13~~ 12, further comprising:

a storage device for storing the sensed image signal of the second image sensing operation according to the selected ~~image-sensing-time~~ exposure period.

Claim 15 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said signal processing device processes the sensed image signal obtained by the first image sensing operation on the basis of the sensed image signal stored in said storage device in image sensing operations other than the predetermined one of the plurality times of image sensing operations.

Claim 16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim ~~16~~ 15, further comprising:

a storage device for storing the sensed image signal of the second image sensing operation according to the selected ~~image-sensing-time~~ exposure period.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said signal processing device processes the sensed image signal obtained by the first image sensing operation on the basis of the sensed image signal stored in said storage device in image

sensing operations other than the longest ~~image sensing time~~ exposure period of the first image sensing operation ~~predetermined one of~~ among the plurality times of image sensing operations.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said signal processing device designates an ~~image sensing time~~ exposure period of the first image sensing operation of a predetermined image sensing operation in response to the instruction of said instruction device, and ~~makes~~ performs the second image sensing operation for the plurality times of image sensing operation in accordance with the designated ~~image sensing time~~ exposure period.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a storage device for storing the sensed image signal of the second image sensing operation according to the designated ~~image sensing time~~ exposure period.

Claim 21 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said signal processing device processes the sensed image signal obtained by the first image sensing operation on the basis of the sensed image signal stored in said storage device in image sensing operations other than the predetermined one of the plurality of image sensing operations.

Claim 22 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said apparatus includes a camera.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the instruction corresponds to a particular operation mode from a plurality of first operation modes of the image sensing device.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the instruction corresponds to a particular operation mode from a plurality of first operation modes of the image sensing device.